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[www.frederickco.gov](http://www.frederickco.gov)

April 23, 2019

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Community Members:

The Town of Frederick is considering returning to the ballot this fall with a funding proposal and seeks your thoughts and recommendations.

**Protecting the safety and security of our residents is one of our absolute highest priorities. That is why the Town of Frederick placed a sales tax measure on last fall's ballot.**

**The ballot measure did not pass. In fact, it lost by about five percentage points. And as mayor, I take full responsibility for that defeat.** The Town did not do enough to involve taxpayers in the planning process, including properly informing our community about our growing public safety needs.

**Unfortunately, doing nothing is not an option. Here is the reality:**

- The Frederick Police Department does not have enough police officers to ensure that a supervisor is on duty 24/7.
- There are times each week in which only one officer is on duty to protect Frederick's 13,300 residents. That puts our residents and officers at greater risk.
- Since 2012, the number of calls our police department receives annually has increased by 127%. And this call volume is projected to increase 11% each year, exceeding 18,300 calls by 2023.
- Priority calls that require two or more officers – including accidents, burglaries and disturbances – has almost doubled since 2012.
- Last year, the Dacono Police Department had to assist our police department on 500 calls due to a lack of Frederick officers on duty.
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit and retain police officers given our police department's uncompetitive salary schedule.
- With Frederick's population continuing to grow, the challenges tied to too few police officers is going to increase.

**Built on What Matters.**

**The Town recently assembled a 40-member Citizen Task Force comprised of local business and civic leaders to help evaluate our community's public safety needs and possible funding solutions.** After much discussion, the Task Force unanimously agreed that public input should be gathered on a 1-cent sales and use tax proposal (10 cents on a \$10 purchase) to add police officers and address other critical public safety needs.

**The Task Force preferred a sales tax over a property tax, especially given that Frederick's sales tax is currently below that of Dacono, Erie, Firestone, Fort Lupton and Longmont.**

**Proceeds of the proposal would be used as follows:**

- Adding five police officers (three sergeants and two patrol) over a three-year period – as well as required equipment and vehicles – to ensure that at least two officers are on duty each shift.
- Strengthening proactive policing efforts and the enforcement of rising drug activity.
- Replacing the police department's 19-year-old records management system.
- Improving recruitment and retention of police officers.

**No final decisions will be made until we hear from you, our taxpayers.** Over the next few months, the Town will be hosting community information meetings and conducting a public opinion survey that will be mailed to your home. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

The first three public information meetings will be hosted at Town Hall (401 Locust Street, Frederick, CO) on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, May 8, 6:30 PM      Saturday, May 18, 10:00 AM      Wednesday, May 29, 6:00 PM

If you have questions about the current funding proposal, please contact us at your convenience.

**You have the final say when it comes to the level of public safety provided in our community.** Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our public safety needs and proposed solutions.

Sincerely,

**TOWN OF FREDERICK**



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